

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9633

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NO, CB, VN, VS

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE QUESTION OF CAMBODIAN
AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE RECOGNITION

REF: OSLO 0783

SUMMARY: AT THE LABOR PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS WEEK ONE OF
PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES TO COME UP WAS LEFTIST DEMAND FOR
LABOR GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME IN CAMBODIA AND THE
PRG IN VIETNAM. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND RESPONDED BY
OUTLINING POLICY, UNCERTAINTIES AND DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN
SUCH RECOGNITION NOW. CONVENTION ADVISED AND HE AGREED, HOWEVER,
TO BRING THE ISSUES TO THE STORTING'S FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE
FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. FRYDENLUND PLANS TO DO SO NEXT WEEK AND
WITH UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED HE EXPECTS COMMITTEE WILL PREFER
GOVERNMENT HOLD OFF ACTION UNTIL SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
CLARIFIES. END SUMMARY

1. DURING LABOR PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION APRIL 19-23 LEFTIST
GROUPS PRESSED HARD FOR LABOR GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE NEW CAMBODIAN
REGIME AND PRG IN VIETNAM. IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FOREIGN MINISTER
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FRYDENLUND STATED THAT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON RECOGNITION

IS BASED ON THE PRACTICE AND CRITERIA OF CONTROL OVER TERRITORY, NOT CONTROL BASED ON POLITICAL AND MORAL EVALUATIONS. IN CONFORMANCE THIS PRACTICE, HE SAID, GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH PARLIAMENTARY ORGANS, IS SEEKING TO TAKE UP QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR VIBE POINTED OUT TO DCM THAT QUESTION IS MORE COMPLICATED FOR NORWAY THAN IT FIRST APPEARS SINCE NORWAY DOES NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA. THUS EVEN BASIC QUESTION OF PRESENTING LETTERS OF CREDENCE AND ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF TO WHOM THEY WOULD BE ADDRESSED AND PRESENTED ARE UP IN THE AIR. CONSIDERATION OF THESE AND OTHER MATTERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE SOME TIME.

3. AS TO THE PRG, FRYDENLUND TOLD PARTY CONVENTION THAT MORE THAN INTERNATIONAL LAW WAS INVOLVED PARTICULARLY AS WAR CONTINUED TO RAGE THERE. HE SAID NORWAY'S AIM IS NOT AS FOR MANY OTHER COUNTRIES TO WIN POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN AREA AND HE DID NOT THINK NORWEGIAN RECOGNITION NOW COULD MAKE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION ON THE PRG ESPECIALLY

SINCE SUCH RECOGNITION WAS NOT EXTENDED AT CRITICAL TIME WHEN BOMBS WERE FALLING ON PRG AND NORTH VIETNAM. NORWAY'S PRIMARY GOAL WAS TO HELP IN REBUILDING VIETNAM AND TO SEEK TO AVOID MAKING THE MATTER A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT NORWAY'S FUTURE POSITION IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND NORWEGIAN OPINION WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY WAITING THE SHORT TIME REMAINING UNTIL PEACE FINALLY CAME TO VIETNAM.

4. THE PARTY CONVENTION WENT ON RECORD ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK A FORM OF DIPLOMATIC CONNECTIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH CONFORMS WITH THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SITUATION THERE. IN SO DOING, CONVENTION REJECTED RADICAL MOVE TO USE POLEMICAL LANGUAGE FROM EARLIER LABOR PARTY CONVENTION DURING HEIGHT OF U.S. INVOLVMENT IN VIETNAM.

5. VIBE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE EVOLVING SOUTH VIETNAMESE SITUATION WHEN IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER COMMUNISTS WILL STRIVE FOR TRANSITIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT UNDER PARIS AGREEMENTS, A PRG GOVERNMENT OR HANOI-DOMINATED CONFEDERATION, IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT
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TO RECOMMEND RECOGNITION NOW.

6. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND FRYDENLUND PLANS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PARTY CONVENTION'S WISHES AND WILL TAKE THE RECOGNITION ISSUES TO THE STARTING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK. IN SO DOING HE PLANS OUTLINE POLICY, UNCERTAINTY AND DIFFICULTIES WITH INTENTION OF STALLING ANY FIRM DECISION ON THESE MATTERS UNTIL EVENTS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES BECOME CLEARER.

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